

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The specification has been amended to correct a spelling error. No new matter is entered by this amendment.

Claims 11, 12, and 17 are understood to have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 1032(b) as being rendered obvious by Rebucci (US 4,150,701) in view of Christensen (US 2,433,738).

Claims 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Rebucci (US 4,150,701) in view of Christensen (US 2,433,738) and Cantenot (US 4,099,633).

The claims have been amended and now recite the wedge-shaped cross section of the arms and that they are wedge-shaped along their entire lengths. New claim 28 recites that, at use, the arms (3) never completely cover the openings (5).

These amendments are supported by the specification on page 7, lines 6-10; page 8, lines 23-25, as well as from the Figures 3, 5 and 7. No new matter is entered by this amendment.

These features are clearly non-obvious over each of Rebucci, Christensen, and Cantenot.

I. None of these references teach or suggest an output device with gap shaped discharge openings extending radially from the inner wall to the hub (See e.g., openings 5 in Figures 4-5 extend from the inner wall to the hub).

II. The Official Action states that the output device according to Rebucci has wedged-shaped cross section arms.

Applicant respectfully disagrees and notes that one of skill would find that the Rebucci arms are T-shaped in cross section. A "T" shape is not a wedge shape.

Further, the Rebucci arms do not have the same advantages as in the output device according to the application, which can slide under packed material without bringing it along in one direction (contrary to the direction of feed).

III. Further the Official Action states that the device in Christensen has discharge openings (24, 25, 29). These discharge openings are not the same as recited and do not have the shape relationship as now recited.

The Christensen description column 5, lines 34-37 states that "...segment-shaped shutters or blades 28...form a control door over the registering slots 24 and 25 to govern the discharge...". Thus, the openings (24 and 25) are slots, i.e., narrow openings. Further, the shutters (28) in Christensen are said to form a control door over these slots and are thus, completely covering the slots.

According to the present invention, the arms (3) never completely cover the discharge openings (5). This ensures that the arms may efficiently discharge bulk material (see specification page 8, lines 23-25).

Having amended the recitations of the invention so as to recite the invention both novel and non-obvious, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all the claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/Roland E. Long, Jr./
Roland E. Long, Jr., Reg. No. 41,949
209 Madison Street
Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

REL/jr